

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 /062 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:FJFLEMINGS/EA/J:RAERICSON:ILB

9/10/73 EXT. 21003

APPROVED BY PM/ISO:JDSTODDART

EA - MR. SNEIDER

OP-601C - CAPT. KRAFT

OP-06 - ADM. VANNOY

OSD/ISA/EA - RADM BIGLEY

JCS/J-5 - BGEN HANKET

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R 111722Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO CNO WASH DC

CINCPACFL MAKALAPA HI

COMUSJAPAN

COMSEVENTHFLT

COMNAVFORJAPAN

S E C R E T STATE 180072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PINS, JA

SUBJECT: USS MIDWAY

REF: TOKYO 11318

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1. THE DEPARTMENT AND DEFENSE, AFTER CAREFUL APPRAISAL OF THE PROS AND CONS, HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IT IS IN THE BEST LONG TERM U.S.-JAPAN INTERESTS TO AVOID HAVING MIDWAY BECOME FOCAL POINT OF LEFTIST ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS DURING CARRIER'S FIRST IN-PORT PERIOD.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD THEREFORE INFORM FONOFF THAT THE USG RELUCTANTLY AGREES TO DEPARTURE OF USS MIDWAY FROM

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YOKOSUKA 17 OCTOBER. AT THE SAME TIME EMBASSY SHOULD

EMPHASIZE THAT WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE OF CARRIER'S INITIAL ARRIVAL WITH BUILD-UP TO ANNUAL ANTI-WAR DAY ACTIVITIES CREATES SPECIAL SITUATION, WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED LEST JAPANESE REGARD OUR ACCOMMODATION TO THEIR REQUEST AS PRECEDENT. EMBASSY SHOULD LEAVE NO DOUBT IN MINDS OF GOJ OFFICIALS THAT FOR THE HOMEPORTING CONCEPT TO WORK MIDWAY MUST HAVE CONTINUED AND FREE ACCESS TO YOKOSUKA, AND THAT THIS IS A "ONE-TIME" EXCEPTION. USG EXPECTS AND ANTICIPATES THAT GOJ WILL INSURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO OBSTACLES TO RETURN OF MIDWAY TO YOKOSUKA FOR EXTENDED PERIOD, BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, AND FOR SUBSEQUENT PORT VISITS AS OPERATIONAL SCHEDULES DICTATE.

3. IN WAY OF AMPLIFICATION IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT SPORADIC ADJUSTMENT OF SCHEDULES WOULD QUICKLY NEGATE ADVANTAGES OF HOMEPORTING MIDWAY IN YOKOSUKA, (I.E., IMPROVED CREW MORALE BY DECREASING FAMILY SEPARATION, ADEQUATE IN-PORT MAINTENANCE PERIODS, ETC.). MOREOVER, TO MAKE SUCH CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO LEFTIST POLITICAL ACTIVITY PUTS A DANGEROUS LEVER IN THE HANDS OF THE OPPOSITION WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY BE USED TO DEFEAT THE HOMEPORTING CONCEPT. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT THE ALTERNATIVE TO HOMEPORTING IS A REDUCTION OF DEPLOYED U.S. NAVAL FORCES WHICH IN TURN WOULD INHIBIT U.S. ABILITY TO FULFILL ITS SECURITY COMMITMENTS TO JAPAN AND OTHER ASIAN ALLIES. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE180072
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FJFLEMINGS/EA/J:RAERICSON:ILB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS STODDART
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730942/aaaabetd.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 11318
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Nov-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USS MIDWAY
TAGS: MARR, PINS, JA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005